



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

October 2016

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



I have talked about Mishawaka Parks over the years and would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Parks Superintendent, Phil Blasko. He began his new career with the City of Mishawaka on June 30th, just in time to take part in the annual City of Mishawaka 4th of July Fireworks.

The Parks Superintendent is responsible for the administration, coordination and operation of all City of Mishawaka public parks and recreational facilities. The Superintendent works under the supervision and direction of the Park Board. He administers and coordinates the efficient and effective operation of the Parks and Recreation Department including 30 parks, two swimming pools,

a golf course and a community center by supervising the personnel, overseeing projects and implementing policies established by the Park Board. He is responsible for overseeing a 3.5 million dollar budget.

Born and raised in Mishawaka, Phil Blasko comes back to the Princess City after a career as Recreation Superintendent for the City of Valparaiso. He graduated from Mishawaka High School and attended Defiance College receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sports Management. I would now like to take this opportunity to introduce Phil Blasko and let him give you his vision for the Mishawaka Parks:

"In my short term as the Parks Superintendent, it is clear that the City of Mishawaka values its parks system and wants to improve upon the amenities the City offers. I look forward to becoming part of such a progressive community and working to advance our Parks Department offerings to engage our residents.

(continued on next page)



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Oct 22	Trunk or Treat (Battell Center 5-7p)
Oct 26	Ghoul-ey Story (Battell Center 2-3p)
Oct 28	Goodies & Crafts (Battell Center 2-3p)
Oct 31	Trick or Treating (Citywide 5-7pm)
Nov 24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday (City Offices Closed)
Dec 2	Santa's Arrival (Downtown 6pm)
Dec 9	Family Movies at Battell Center "It's a Wonderful Life" - 1pm "A Christmas Story" - 7pm
Dec 13	Breakfast with Santa (Battell Center 9am)
Dec 16	WinterFest (Merrifield Complex 5-8pm)
Dec 23, 26	Christmas Holiday (City Offices Closed)

Health Insurance Enrollment Periods

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Confused about your health insurance plan? Are you getting ready to retire or are new to Medicare? There are important enrollment dates coming up.

Medicare Annual Enrollment: Oct. 15 - Dec. 7

This is the time of year you can change your Part D Prescription Drug or Medicare Advantage plan. Current Medicare beneficiaries should review their Part D Prescription Drug Plan or their Medicare Advantage plans for any changes that may be occurring for the next year. Medicare makes changes every year and so do the insurance companies. Don't be caught off guard by changes that may be happening with your current plans.

Open Enrollment for the Marketplace: Nov. 1, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017

Like Medicare, health insurance plans also may change from year to year, including provider networks. The Health Insurance Marketplace was designed to make buying health coverage easier for those who do not have access to group insurance or are not eligible for Medicare or government programs. All insurance plans cover in-network doctor visits, hospitalizations, maternity care, emergency room care and prescriptions. Furthermore, plans cannot deny coverage because of a preexisting condition. Before choosing any insurance plan, be sure that your doctors and hospitals accept the plan to avoid paying higher costs for your care. Out-of-network services may not be covered.

In any case, it's always a good idea to check with your insurance company or with Medicare ahead of time on the services that will be covered.

ONLINE ACCESS



<http://mishawaka.in.gov>



<http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>



<http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>



<http://mishawaka.in.gov/parksandrecreation>

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

"I am very excited about the future of the Mishawaka Parks Department. There are many very special events on the horizon and I'd like to share a few with you. I invite all of you to join us downtown at Beutter Park for the Fall Harvest Festival on October 8th from 12:00noon – 6:00pm, following the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay which will pass through Beutter Park between 11:00am and 12pm (noon). The event will feature music, kid's crafts and games, a family hayride, the Michiana Chili Cook-Off, vendor booths and a beverage garden. The annual tree lighting event and arrival of Santa will take place on Friday, December 2nd at 6pm in downtown Mishawaka. Another exciting event, Winterfest, will take place at the Merrifield Ice Rink Complex on December 16th, from 5pm to 8pm. This event provides families an opportunity to ice skate, enjoy a warm snack and get a picture with Santa. There will be crafts, outdoor movies, and a hayride. This is a free family-friendly event for all to enjoy; young and old alike.



"The Parks Department will have many new offerings in the year of 2017. We will be offering new youth and adult sports programs. Our new youth leagues will be: indoor and outdoor soccer, tennis lessons, basketball, flag football, and volleyball leagues. Adults may join us in our new co-ed volleyball and softball leagues. Next summer we will introduce a newly designed summer camp with expanded age groups, field trips and family fun nights.

"The ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Battell Center is scheduled for Monday, October 10th, from 5pm to 9pm. For those of you who were unable to attend the ribbon cutting, please feel free to stop by and take a tour of the facility and stop in my office to meet me. The staff has worked very hard to bring new programming and events to Battell Center for the community so please be sure to register for one of our new youth sports programs, youth and adult enrichment classes or fitness classes. Also, make time to enjoy our new monthly movie nights; coming soon to our new beautiful auditorium. Don't forget that we now have a weight room on our first floor that you may purchase a monthly membership to access.

"Exciting programs and events are happening at the Mishawaka Parks Department and we encourage all residents and non-residents to join us in promoting a healthy lifestyle through participation in our parks and recreational activities. We are currently looking for new ideas and offerings to improve our department and there may be no better time to get started than right now! Please feel free to contact our department to share your ideas and potential partnerships. And you can stay connected with the Mishawaka Parks Department programs and special events through our new Facebook and Constant Contact email campaigns; you will need to contact the Parks Department office to get signed up for the Constant Contact email campaign. I am excited to be part of the Mishawaka community and look forward to making a difference in my community. It's good to be home!"

I am proud to have Phil Blasko back serving his hometown! Phil brings an infectious enthusiasm, passion and outstanding professional experience back to the Princess City. Mishawaka is known for its great park system. I am confident that Phil will make one of the best park systems in the State even better.

Mayor Paul

Government In Action - 2016-17 Mayor's Youth Advisory Council

Members of the 2016-17 Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) were sworn in and given the Oath of Office by Mayor David Wood on Sept. 19, 2016 during the regularly scheduled Common Council Meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

The MYAC is comprised of students, sophomores, juniors or seniors who have been chosen to represent their community and serve as an advisory council to the City of Mishawaka regarding community issues affecting youth. These students will also serve as a liaison between the young adults of the community and the City. The MYAC enables students to work toward goals that empower all of the community's youth and to undertake service projects and volunteer projects that enhance the community. This year's Youth Council is the largest to date with a total of 40 students.



Following is a list of these students and the high school that they represent:

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| Marian: | Emma Griesinger, Hannah Majewski, Marielle Corbett, Natalie Winters, Taylor Ryan-Sizemore (Secretary), Gina Tordi, Michael Wuszke, Madeline Dennison, Emma Eversole, Abbey Wood (President) and Alexia Alvarado. |
| Mishawaka: | Luke Kasznia, Lindsey Pelletier, Gabi Reinoehl, Abigail Mueller, Parker Norris, Katie Vandygriff, Kaitlin Ward, Devyn Miller, Skylar Madison, Max Pickenpaugh, Jacob Orbin, Austin Laymon, Skylar Norris, Kerri Clark, John Zylstra and Alexandria Shide. |
| Penn: | Maya Wright, Bo Schuster, Celine Wang, Logan McGuire (Vice President), Jack Bender, Samantha Grocock, Hannah Smith, Alexis Marks, Reis Kennedy (Treasurer), Keegan Palonis, Collin Pica, Evan Pica and Kyle Cocquyt. |